

# A Summary Guide For Astrophilately

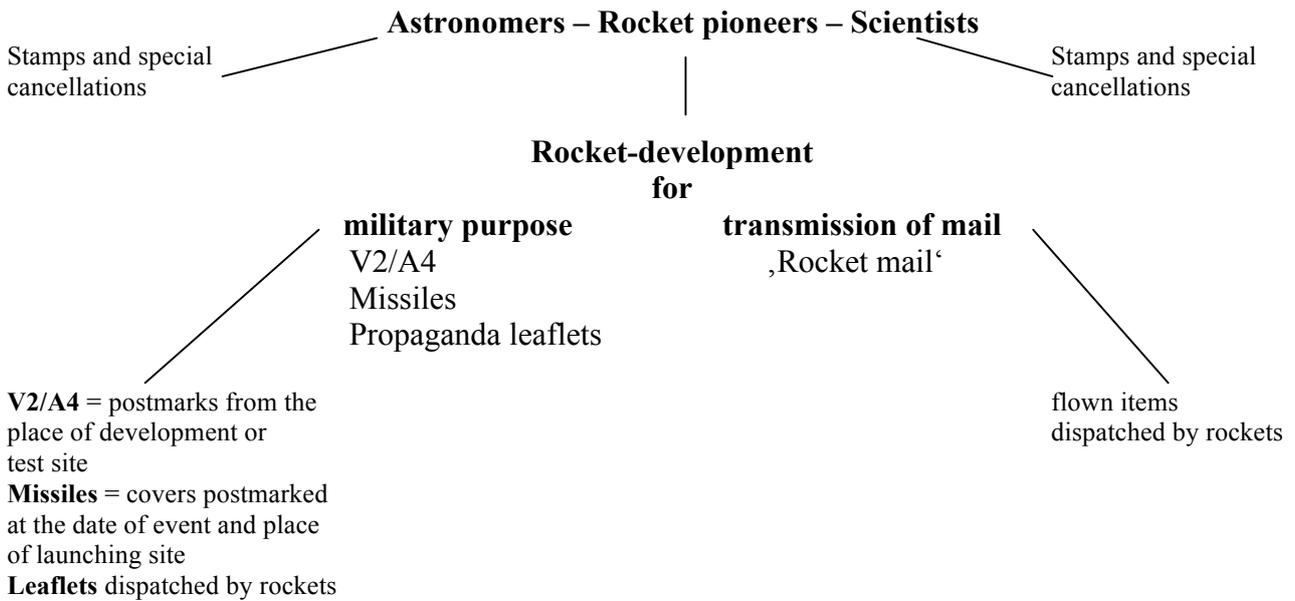
## Beatrice Bachmann

An astrophilatelic collection/exhibit records  
**The Conquest of Space**  
 It may comprise philatelic material related to:

### Precursors

Appropriate  
astrophilatelic items are:

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astrophilatelic items are:



### Medical and scientific Stratosphere balloon research flights Manned and Unmanned

Covers postmarked at the nearest post office of the place and with the date of ascent or descent.  
 Flown covers have postmarks from both places and/or confirmation of the stratonaut/s of having been flown.

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### Experimental rocket plane flights Manned and Unmanned

Covers postmarked with the date and at the place of test site.  
 Flown covers have the confirmation of the test pilot of having been flown.

covers postmarked at the nearest post office of the place and with the date of ascent or descent.  
 Flown covers show postmarks from both places.

With the beginning of actual space exploration by spacecraft **an essential part of an astrophilatelic collection are covers and cards with the postmarks applied at the nearest post office and with the date of the space event** as e.g. from the launch site, mission control centre and landing place and form the key of an astrophilatelic exhibit.

In the USSR this kind of material was not available until 1975 when post offices were inaugurated at the places of space events, as mentioned above. Early space events of the USSR can be recorded by stamps and special cancellations referring to the missions.

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**Space exploration**

referring to:

**Precursors of Manned space programs**

Bio-test flights  
Capsule recovery and re-entry tests  
Booster and Carrier rocket tests  
Ballistic and orbital test flights with spacecraft  
Moon probes  
Experimental rocket plane flights

**Unmanned space programs**

Astronomy  
Biology  
Meteorology  
Telecommunication  
Geo-military and other scientific research flights by satellites and rockets  
Space probes and strato balloons

Performed by

the USA and the USSR

the USA, the USSR European and Overseas countries

**Space flights**

referring to:

**Manned programs**

Spaceships → Mercury, Gemini, Apollo & Skylab, Vostok, Voshkod and Soyuz

Space stations → Skylab, Salyut\*, Mir\* and ISS\*

**Unmanned programs**

various types of spacecraft and missions  
Deep space probes  
Test of Buran spacecraft  
,Progress‘ supply spacecraft

Space Shuttle\*

→ deploy of satellites and space probes ←

Carrier Spacecraft (e.g. Ariane)

Performed by:

the USA and USSR/Russia  
\*with multinational participation

the USA, USSR/Russia, European and Overseas countries

There exist post offices at all main launch sites, mission control centres and at scheduled landing places in: Australia, China, India, Japan, Russia and the USA, where postmarks with the date of event are available.

The same holds for the European space activities in countries such as French Guyana, Kenya etc..

Post offices also existed on US recovery ships where postmarks were applied at the date of splashdown and recovery of Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and Skylab spacecraft and crew.

Flown covers exist from Apollo Moon flights, Space Shuttle STS 8 and Space mail carried from and to Salyut, Mir and ISS orbital stations. Space mail of the USSR/Russia should show the special marks only available in the space stations and/or official postmarks applied at the post offices in the Salyut and Mir orbital stations.

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